

## House Resolution No. 2188

**Whereas**, it is with special pleasure that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to recognize an outstanding Missouri citizen who has played an integral role in the care and educational development of countless youngsters; and

**Whereas**, Betty Snapp founded the Sunshine Center, a special school in Independence that provides excellent, quality care to developmentally handicapped children and their families, in 1975, since which time she has derived a tremendous amount of personal satisfaction from the progress of the children and the growth of the center; and

**Whereas**, despite a hearing disability, Betty Snapp opened her ears and her heart to children with developmental disabilities as a Junior Service League volunteer at Kansas University Medical Center, and partnered with her neighbor, Barbara Fears, to establish a hearing and speech center; and

**Whereas**, Sunshine Center now has a budget of \$2 million per year and employs fifty-eight people, many of whom are long-time employees of the center and are dedicated to attending to the educational and developmental needs of children ranging from birth to three years of age for all abilities; and

**Whereas**, born in Dallas in 1941, Betty Snapp moved to the Independence area when she was five, attended local schools including Christian Ott Elementary School and William Chrisman High School, and married Richard Beem, a veterinarian with whom she shared the love of a son, Matthew; and

**Whereas**, following the death of her first husband, Betty met and married Terry Snapp in 1976, a wonderful gentleman with whom she will spend her much-deserved retirement doing her favorite things that include traveling and visiting with her son and daughter-in-law, Todd and Kate Beem, and her three grandchildren; and

**Whereas**, Betty Snapp was recognized for her twenty-eight years of unparalleled service to children at the Sunshine Center during a very special "peanut butter retirement party" where she was honored as the "peanut butter queen":

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join in expressing our utmost appreciation to Betty Snapp for the significant difference she has made in the lives of countless developmentally disabled children and their families, and in wishing her the long, enjoyable retirement she so richly deserves; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for retiring Sunshine Center founder, Betty Snapp, as a mark of our esteem for her.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Paul LeVota  
District No. 52

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 2188, adopted April 28, 2003.

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Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker